

Communication User Group Meeting: August 19, 2009

Then Clermont County Communication User Group meeting began at 9:00 AM. County Commissioner Ed Humphrey, County Administrator David Spinney, Department Head of Office of Tech., Comm., Security Steve Rabolt, and DPSS Director Beth Nevel were representatives from the County. Police Chief Steve Bailey, Fire Chief Kevin Riley, Fire Chief David Moulden, Lt, Sue Madsen and B/Chief Andrew Knapp were in attendance. Agenda was available, as well as the minutes from the July 15, 2009 meeting

DPSS Staff Changes: Steve Rabolt indicated that the BCC has made the decision to separate the 9-1-1 and EMA responsibilities. The job postings are advertized for a full time 9-1-1-Manager and a Part time EMA Director. Mr. Spinney added that this decision was made by the BCC with input from the users. The advertisements are state wide, as well as local media. The Fire and Police Chief's Organization has been invited to participate in the applicant screen, interviews and final list of recommended applicants that will be presented to the BCC. It is anticipated that the 9-1-1 Manager will be on board the first or second week of October 2009.

Mr. Spinney also indicated that the decision has been made to fill two full time Emergency Resource Technicians vacant but funded positions. These are advertised and close August 26, 2009. Once the ERTs are onboard and their training is completed, this will reduce the over-time costs.

Mr. Spinney states that prior issues with dispatchers are being evaluated, but the County wants to look forward, not backwards.

User Equipment: Various Manufactures: Mr. Rabolt had an EF Johnson radio available and programmed to the County 800 MHz system for demonstration. This is comparable in operation to the Motorola 2500. Cost is \$2,100.00 for the Johnson and \$4,500 for the Motorola.

Discussion followed about "multi-band" radios that DHS is testing with fourteen (14) federal agencies. This pilot project will last a minimum of thirty (30) days per DHS. Testing results and report will be posted by SAFE-COM program webpage in early 2010 per **Urgent**

Communications: August 2009 "DHS multiband radio project nears end" by Mary Rose Roberts, pg.9.

Chief Riley reported that he and Chief Huber looked at these unit while at ICHIEF'S Conference in Denver and found that the THALES Liberty units were cumbersome and not rugged.

Chief Moulden said that he is working with Motorola to get an APX7000 that is now 800 MHz and VHF, but not UHF. Cost will be \$6,100 to \$6,200.

Mr. Spinney asked:"Does this create problems if the users begin to get other manufactured radios. Mr. Rabolt indicated that the County System personnel are trained to the Motorola units,

with soft ware and test equipment, but that there is not at compatibility concern with infrastructure with other manufactured units.

Re-banding of 800 MHz frequencies: Lt. Sue Madsen reported that the Union Township Fire/EMS radios were in the process of being re-banded. Mr. Rabolt indicated that the templates will be changed to match the other Fire/EMS radios. Mr. Rabolt reported that LE is completed. Also those agencies that support the Clermont County response teams were to be re-banded in the near future. This includes Command 400. Infrastructure will be completed in August and September.

B/Chief Knapp pointed out that both Hamilton and Warren Counties have not yet completed their re-banding and this is cause for concern operationally in cases of Mutual Aid responses. Chief Knapp will check with the Air Care and Care Flight NIPSPAC configurations in light of re-banding status by the other Counties.

In-field testing for re-banding: Testing of the 800 MHz system needs to occur both before and after the changeover to new frequencies. A conference call was held on August 13th to set up testing groups. Both LE and Fire/EMS will provide ten (10) test teams. Beth will coordinate the test materials and information electronically prior to the test date of August 24, 2009.

Commissioner Humphrey requested copies for the 2000 and 2003 in field testing results. Beth will provide that information.

Flash Upgrades to P25: Beth Nevel reported see has requested a new quote from Mobilcomm, as we are now within ninety (90) days of commencing this project. Chief Riley indicated that Mobilcomm was to evaluate the Central Joint Fire District radios to determine the “flash” configurations, as this will make a difference in how this task is accomplished.

County Voice/Infrastructure Communications Upgrade/2011: Mr. Rabolt reported that new technology continues to be evaluated for the voice system. This technology is changing monthly.

Countywide DATA project: A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be approved by the BCC in the next week. This request is for the purpose of identifying technology and cost to implement. There is a four (4) week close date for this proposal. Five to six (5-6) companies have indicated an interest in this project. A pilot was conducted during the recent County Fair in Owensville, with 2MG bytes.

Commissioner Humphrey requested that the Fire/EMS and LE bring forth a committee at the September meeting of the Users Group to look at various applications for this data system. Chief Riley indicated he was interested in MDC access back to the Fire House.

CAD Project: Beth Nevel reported that an Acceptance meeting was held this week. She reported that the components in the RFB have been met to acceptance. MDC interface,

Replication, Report Management System, Web CAD are all in place and functioning as requested in RFB.

Enhancements will be in Version 6.1 at no cost to County. This includes the build of Complex Run Cards. This software upgrade is expected in late October 2009 for Clermont County. The County will also bring pack a “run card programmer” to build out the complex run cards for 6.1. Chief Riley indicated that 80% of the Fire/EMS Chief’s concerns centered on the run card implementation and completion.

The “Dialer-File” component meets the language of the RFB, but not the functionality that GRAC had given the dispatchers. County is working internally to build that data base in Excel for the CAD application.

The “Geo” component tends to “error message” when the dispatcher leaves their “aerial photo” option open. This is a training matter. There is not a problem with the regular mapping interface.

Red Line: Lt. Madsen reports that the “Red Line” interface was placed in service Friday August 14th, and remained in place until 508 hours the next morning. She has contacted System Support and they are working on the matter.

Communications Center Web Link on County Web Page: Since the last user group meeting, in an attempt to be transparent, the County has established a “Communications Center” page on the Clermont County webpage under “Services: Communications Center”. Mr. Humphrey also requested this be linked under the BCC page.

User Group minutes, agendas and various documents concerning the Communication Center are now posted. Beth Nevel requested assistance with FAQ from the user community.

Other concerns: Mr. Humphrey asked about the status of all stations being able to view other stations in the Web CAD program. Beth will research the status to this option and report back as an agenda item next meeting.

In closing, Commissioner Humphrey and Administrator Spinney thanked the attendees and encouraged the User Group to move forward with suggestions and solutions, not just quick fixes.

The next meeting is September 16, 2009 at 9:00 AM at the Engineer Bldg. Training Room.